



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1945

J. W. INNES, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

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Vice-Chairman Councillor KNIPE.

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Councillor EVANS.

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J. W. INNES, M.A., M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H. *Medical Officer of Health*

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A. A. BELDON, C.R.S.I. *Additional Sanitary Inspector*

J. WEAR, C.R.S.I. *Clerk (on Military Service).*

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Miss G. BANKS Do.

*Miss C. BANKS, S.R.N. *Matron War-time Nursery.*

Mrs. S. KENDAL, S.R.N. *Housing Welfare Officer.*

*—Temporary War Appointment.

PART TIME.

J. STEVEN FAULDS, M.D., *Bacteriologist, Cumberland*
F.R.F.P.S. *Laboratory.*

C. J. H. STOCK, B.Sc., F.I.C. *Analyst.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
81, LOWTHER STREET,
WHITEHAVEN.

1st August, 1946.

*To His Worship the Mayor,
The Aldermen and Councillors,
Borough of Whitehaven.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1945.

The year has seen considerable changes, locally and otherwise. The most notable was, of course, the termination of the second World War, whilst locally we had considerable changes in our Health Services due to the transfer to the County Council of the School Medical and Child Welfare Services as a consequence of the Education Act, 1944. The trend of all legislation is now for the centralisation of services in larger authorities, and whether this will be to the ultimate advantage of such authorities as ours, in which we could justifiably claim that efficient services had been gradually built up, time alone will show, but, to be perfectly honest, I have not so far seen any outstanding benefit from the change-over.

As regards the general health of the community, I was able to report in 1944 that taken generally the statistics for that year were the best that had ever been presented. It stands to reason that such a statement cannot be repeated indefinitely. There are bound to be fluctuations, especially when dealing with smallish numbers, but it must be stated that the figures for 1945 are definitely worse than those for 1944.

The General Death Rate was 1.8 worse than that for the previous year, whereas the country as a whole showed an improvement of 0.2.

The Birth Rate fell by 2.3 but was still higher by 3.7 than the rate for the whole country.

The Infantile Mortality Rate rose by 15, and was exactly that much higher than the rate for England as a whole.

Deaths from Tuberculosis show a gloomier picture still, the number being more than double those for the previous year, the Death Rate from this disease for the year being considerably more than double the rate for the whole country.

It would seem as if the strain and living conditions of war had begun to exact their toll.

As regards notifiable infectious diseases the picture is very different. Apart from Measles, which was prevalent during the first five months of the year, the community remained almost entirely free from diseases of an epidemic nature, and, excluding deaths from Pneumonia and Tuberculosis, the only deaths attributed to notifiable diseases were one from Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, which was not notified and about which there was a considerable element of doubt, and one from Acute Polio-Encephalitis. For the ninth year in succession there was no death from Diphtheria—in fact only two cases were notified.

The housing position still remains the most acute question, but building operations had commenced to a small extent by the close of the year and planning of the large Corkickle scheme, which will eventually solve the housing problem, was well in hand.

The Charter of the Borough was granted in November, 1894, so that the Borough attained its Jubilee in 1944. It seemed to me that it might be of some interest to compare what statistics were available for 1895—the Borough's first complete year of existence as a Borough—with these of 1945. The statistics were not shown in the same way then, so that a full comparison cannot be made, but a few are shown at page 13 of the Report, which bear out that substantial improvements have been effected during the fifty years. During that time the General Death Rate has been halved and the Infantile Mortality Rate reduced to one-third of what it was. One of the most striking features that emerged was the saving of young lives that has been effected.

In 1895, half of all who died were under five years of age, whereas in 1945, one has to include all who were under sixty-five years of age at death to account for a comparable proportion.

In 1895—out of a population two thousand six hundred less—more people actually died under the age of fifteen than the total number of deaths at all ages in 1945.

I do not think any other matters call for special comment.

In concluding, I wish to thank all members of this and other departments who have given all help and co-operation, and also the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest and support in all matters pertaining to the health of the community.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. INNES,

Medical Officer of Health.

A.—STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	4,315
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid year, 1945)	21,600
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	6,045
Rateable Value (1st April, 1945)	£102,712
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£386

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate ...	198	195	393
—Illegitimate ...	16	19	35
Total ...	214	214	428

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population 19.8

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Still Births—Legitimate ...	6	4	10
—Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	6	4	10

Rate per 1,000 total births 23.4

DEATHS.	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Deaths (all ages)	140	140	280
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population		12.9	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 (Live & Still) Births.</i>
From Sepsis	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>
From other causes ...	1	2.3
Total ...	1	2.3

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	61
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	66
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	<i>nil</i>

Deaths from

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	36
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	—

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population in the Borough at the middle of 1945 was 21,600, a decrease of 50 compared with the mid-year estimate for 1944.

Since 1941, the Registrar-General estimates, the population has dropped by 2,000. Even allowing for the return of evacuees and wartime residents this seems somewhat surprising having regard to the continued demand for housing and the undoubted shortage of existing accommodation.

The population at the last census and the mid-year estimates since are shown below:—

	<i>Actual Count at Census.</i>	<i>Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimates.</i>
1931	21,142	21,270
1932	—	21,400
1933	—	21,220
1934 (Borough extended)	—	23,185
1935	—	23,060
1936	—	22,970
1937	—	22,380
1938	—	22,350
1939	—	22,370
1940	—	22,960
1941	—	23,640
1942	—	22,940
1943	—	22,490
1944	—	21,650
1945	—	21,600

BIRTHS.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	19.8
„ „ England and Wales	...	16.1
„ „ 126 Great Towns	...	19.1
„ „ 148 Smaller Towns (population 25,000—50,000)	...	19.2
„ „ London Ad. County	...	15.7
„ „ County of Cumberland	...	17.4

The number of live births registered during the year was 428, 214 males and 214 females, of whom 16 males and 19 females were illegitimate. The Birth Rate was 19.8 per thousand of estimated resident population, the rate being 2.3 less than the rate for 1944, and the rate for the country as a whole showed a decrease of 1.5.

The following Table shows the average annual number of births and average annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales along with the actual figures since 1941:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven.		England and Wales.
	Average Annual No. of Births.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.
1891—1895	586	32.0	30.5
1896—1900	595	30.9	29.3
1901—1905	644	33.3	28.2
1906—1910	592	30.6	26.3
1911—1915	568	29.6	23.6
1916—1920	533	27.8	20.1
1921—1925	559	27.6	19.9
1926—1930	485	24.0	16.7
1931—1935	449	20.5	15.0
1936—1940	416	18.4	14.9
1941—1945	446	19.8	16.2
	Number of Births.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population.
1941	442	18.7	14.9
1942	431	18.8	15.8
1943	429	19.1	16.5
1944	479	22.1	17.6
1945	428	19.8	16.1

DEATHS.

Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	...	12.9
„ „ England and Wales	...	11.4
„ „ 126 Great Towns	...	13.5
„ „ 148 Smaller Towns	...	12.3
„ „ London	...	13.8
„ „ County of Cumberland	...	12.7

The number of deaths of residents belonging to the Borough, after making allowance for inward and outward transfers, was 280, viz., 140 males and 140 females, which gives a Death Rate of 12.9 per thousand.

The actual number of deaths was 40 more than in the previous year, and the Death Rate 1.8 more as compared with an improvement in the Death Rate for the country as a whole of 0.2.

The chief causes of death during the year were Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System, 72, Cancer 36, Respiratory Diseases, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc., 29, and Tuberculosis 32.

The following Table shows the average annual number of deaths and the average annual crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales, along with the actual figures since 1941:—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven.		England and Wales
	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of resident population	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
1891—1895	372	19.9	18.7
1896—1900	368	18.1	17.7
1901—1905	368	19.2	16.1
1906—1910	393	20.4	14.7
1911—1915	350	18.2	14.3
1916—1920	315	17.3	14.4
1921—1925	320	15.6	12.2
1926—1930	292	13.8	12.1
1931—1935	281	12.8	12.0
1936—1940	307	13.6	12.5
1941—1945	270	12.0	12.0
	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 of resident population	Death Rate per 1,000 of population.
1941	274	11.6	13.5
1942	276	12.0	11.6
1943	278	12.4	12.1
1944	240	11.1	11.6
1945	280	12.9	11.4

The ages of all cases who died during 1945 and the cause of death are shown in the following Tables: —

AGE AT DEATH OF ALL CASES, WHITEHAVEN BOROUGH, 1945.

Age Groups	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	Over 65	Total
Males ...	14	2	1	—	—	—	1	2	2	4	11	12	21	70	140
Females ...	12	2	—	1	1	1	1	5	4	10	2	11	17	73	140

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1945.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All causes	140	140
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
Measles	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	2	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	13	14
Other Tuberculous Disease	—	5
Syphilis	—	—
Cancer	14	22
Diabetes	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	16	7
Heart Disease	23	25
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	1
Bronchitis	2	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	3	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	7	8
Nephritis	5	5
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c. ...	10	6
Road Traffic Accidents	—	2
Other Violence	7	1
Suicide	—	—
All Other Causes	23	25

MATERNAL DEATHS.

One maternal Death took place within the year.

The rate per 1,000 total births as compared with the corresponding rates for the whole country were:—

	<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Total Births.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
From Sepsis ...	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>	0.49
From other causes	1	2.28	1.30
Total ...	1	2.28	1.79

No. of Notifications.

Notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia ...	*4	9.13	9.93
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*One person not resident in the Borough, so that the nett rate to correspond with 1,000 births was 6.85.

INFANTILE DEATHS.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per thousand live births:—

Legitimate 66, Illegitimate <i>nil</i>	Total 61.
England and Wales ...	46
126 Great Towns ...	54
148 Smaller Towns ...	43
London ...	53
County of Cumberland ...	48

The number of deaths of children under one year of age during 1945 was 26, viz., 14 males and 12 females, which gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 61 per 1,000 registered live births.

This rate shows an increase of 15 compared with that for the previous year.

The chief causes of the Infantile Deaths were Prematurity and Congenital Defects, which accounted for 16 of the 26 deaths, and Bronchitis and Pneumonia which accounted for 7. Thirteen or 50 per cent. of the deaths occurred in the neonatal period, that is within the first month of life. The Mortality Rates for Male and Female Infants respectively were 65 and 56.

INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY AGES AND CAUSE OF DEATH, 1945.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	AGE IN WEEKS.					AGE IN MONTHS						Total Deaths.
	AGE IN WEEKS.					AGE IN MONTHS						
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	Under 1 M'th	1—2	2—3	3—6	6—9	9—12		
Premature Birth 	6	1	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	
Congenital Malformations and Debility	5	1	—	—	6	1	1	1	—	—	9	
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	7	
Convulsions 	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	
Accidental 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	11	2	—	—	13	1	5	7	—	—	26	

The following Table shows the annual average number of Infantile Deaths and the annual average rate per 1,000 live births by five-year periods since 1890, with the corresponding rate for England and Wales, along with the actual figures since 1941 :—

Period.	Borough of Whitehaven.		England and Wales
	Average Annual Number of Deaths under one year of age.	Average Annual Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 registered live births	Annual Average Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 registered live births
1891—1895	88	148	151
1896—1900	89	150	156
1901—1905	92	143	138
1906—1910	84	142	117
1911—1915	79	140	110
1916—1920	62	117	90
1921—1925	57	102	76
1926—1930	44	89	68
1931—1935	33	74	62
1936—1940	27	65	56
1941—1945	25	56	50
1941	26	58	60
1942	28	65	49
1943	21	49	49
1944	22	46	46
1945	26	61	46

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1895 AS COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR 1945.

	1895	1945
Population: Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate	19,000	21,600
Registered Live Births	641	428
Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population ...	33.7	19.8
Deaths—All ages	510	280
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population ...	26.8	12.9
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year of age)	119	26
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	186	61

DEATHS OCCURRING IN 1895 AND IN 1945 SHOWN BY THOSE AGE-GROUPS AVAILABLE FOR 1895.

	0—1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—65	Over 65	Total
Deaths 1895 %age of total deaths	119 23%	142 28%	31 6%	17 3%	121 24%	80 16%	510
Deaths 1945 %age of total deaths	26 9%	7 3%	3 1%	13 5%	88 31%	143 51%	280

Unfortunately more detail is not available for the groups 25-65 for 1895, but the table does show an extraordinary contrast in age at death. In 1895, more than half of all deaths were under 5 years of age. In 1945, less than half of all deaths were under 65 years of age.

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

Under the provision of the Education Act, 1944, the School Medical Service was transferred to the County Council on 1st April, 1945.

The Child Welfare Service had been built up as part of a combined service. All officers, full or part-time, engaged in School Medical work were also employed on similar work under Child Welfare arrangements, and all facilities for treatment were equally available to children of school age or under, thus making available a full dental service—including routine inspection and treatment—and specialist services for eyes, ear, nose and throat, and orthopaedics.

It was only by working in conjunction with the School Medical Service, which of course included by far the larger number of children, that it was possible to offer such a complete service for the younger ones, and accordingly it was felt that to sever the services and to retain Child Welfare powers that could only offer a much depleted service, would be detrimental to the interests of the community.

It was considered that these could best be served by relinquishing both at the same time, thus anticipating by only a short time what undoubtedly will be the policy of the Ministry in the near future. (The date of transfer of Welfare functions has since been fixed as 1st April, 1948). It was agreed between the County Council and the Local Authority that the former Authority should take over the powers and duties as Child Welfare Authority from 1st April.

I. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Dr. J. L. Hunter, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, returned to duty from service in H.M. Forces on 1st February, and Dr. Elder ceased to be employed as Temporary Assistant at the end of that month.

Miss Berry, who had been in the service of the Authority as Health Visitor since 1919, resigned on the grounds of ill health on 31st March.

The following full-time officers were transferred to the County Council on 1st April: Dr. Hunter; Mr. Hopkin, Dental Officer; Miss Lodge and Miss Hodgson, Health Visitors and School Nurses; Miss Field, Dental Attendant; and Mrs. Rowe, Clerk-Typist.

A return of all work done in the first quarter of the year was supplied to the County Medical Officer for inclusion in his figures for the year.

2. SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

(a) *Laboratory Facilities.*—Clinical material and milk samples are sent to the Cumberland Laboratory, Carlisle Infirmary, and water samples to the County Analyst at Darlington.

General practitioners send clinical specimens at the Council's expense when these are required for the diagnosis of notifiable diseases, the cost being met by a block grant based on the average number being sent prior to the date when this system was introduced (1941).

The following specimens were sent by practitioners during the year:—

			<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	...	...	2	25	27
Tuberculosis	...	...	11	17	28
Ophthalmia (gonococcal)			1	2	3
Others	...	...	—	1	1

(b) *Ambulance Facilities.*—The arrangements have been described in previous reports, and the district is adequately served. For infectious cases, the West Cumberland Joint Hospital Board provides two ambulances, one stationed at Galemire Hospital, Cleator Moor, and one at Ellerbeck Hospital, Workington. For non-infectious cases, an ambulance is provided and maintained at Whitehaven by a Joint Ambulance Committee of which Whitehaven is a member.

(c) *War-Time Nursery.*—The administration of the War-Time Nursery was left in the hands of the Local Authority when the other services were transferred to the County.

The total number of children on the register throughout the year was:—

(a)	under two years of age	...	...	35
(b)	2-5 years of age	...	...	54

and the average daily attendance over the year was:—

(a)	under two years of age	...	...	7
(b)	2-5 years of age	...	...	17

The Nursery has done very good work during the time it has been established, for which the Matron and her staff deserve every credit.

As a war measure, the primary object of the Nursery was to free women, who were otherwise available, to take part in war-time industry, but from the point of view of health, the value lay in the training of the children in hygiene and social habits, and the improvement in their physical well-being from good regular feeding and healthy routine. From this point of view the retention of the Nursery as a health measure is, in my opinion, well worth the cost it would entail under the new financial arrangement, whereby the Local Authority (Education and/or Child Welfare) would have to contribute a substantial part of the expenditure. The decision as to its retention or as to its future function either as a day-nursery or as a nursery-school rests with the County Council.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary matters are fully dealt with in a report by Mr. Lord, Sanitary Inspector, which is printed as an appendix, and few matters call for special comment.

I. HOUSING.

As everywhere else, the most urgent need is for more and better housing. Prior to the war the clearance of unfit property was being tackled vigorously and Whitehaven had already accomplished a great deal by providing 1,800 new Council houses during the inter-war period. Even then, in view of the tremendous proportion of unfit houses in the town and the growing need even then for additional houses as well as for those to replace unfit ones, one was inclined to feel that the progress was too slow, and that there was a very long way still to go before one could feel satisfied that everybody was housed in decent comfortable circumstances and provided with the amenities of living that everyone should have a right to. With the cessation of building for over six years—apart from 100 houses for special war-workers—and the inevitable deterioration of properties already unfit or on the border line, the position now can only be described as very serious.

Planning for a large scheme that on completion would solve all the housing difficulties was well in progress by the close of the year, but it was not to be expected that much could actually be accomplished within a few months of the cessation of hostilities. Before the close of the year, work was commenced on twenty houses at Hensingham to complete a scheme that was held up at the outbreak of war, and four of these were completed and occupied.

Streets and sewers were completed for the erection of fifty temporary bungalows (aluminium type) and the construction of streets and sewers for 102 permanent houses was in progress.

2. WATER SUPPLIES.

The supply of water to the various districts of the town has been generally satisfactory in quality and quantity, the average daily supply being approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons.

The water is chlorinated on its way to the town, and eleven samples of water after treatment were submitted for bacteriological analysis. All showed the water to be of a high degree of purity. One sample of water taken prior to treatment showed evidence of surface contamination which was being effectively dealt with by chlorination. No chemical analysis was made during the year.

No question of plumbo-solvency arose, and, apart from the regular chlorination, no action was required in regard to contamination.

Three groups of properties comprising fifty-six houses, with a population of approximately 224 people, are supplied by means of common taps with, in one group, as many as twelve houses per tap. The remainder have a direct supply, either indoor or outdoor, although in a number of cases one tap supplies more than one house.

D.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

I. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Infectious diseases notified during the year are shown by age-groups in the following table with the number admitted to Hospital and the number of deaths from these diseases.

Measles was prevalent during the first five months of the year, but, apart from that, there was very little disease of an epidemic nature.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	4	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	*4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	6	1	—	17 forms)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	395	19	38	65	56	69	142	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1

*3 were notified from Whitehaven Hospital, and the other from the County Hospital.
The latter did not belong to the District.

SMALLPOX.

No case of Smallpox occurred during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

Four cases were notified during the year—a decrease of six as compared with the number for the previous year. None of the cases was admitted to Hospital, and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

Two cases were notified during the year. They were admitted to Hospital and both recovered. It is worthy of note that not a single case has died from Diphtheria since 1936—the year that immunisation was first introduced here. That must surely appear to everybody to be more than mere coincidence.

The following Table shows the incidence of Diphtheria, the attack rate and the mortality rate by five-year groups since 1895, with actual figures subsequent to 1940:—

Period.	Average Annual Number of cases notified.	Average Annual attack rate per 1,000 of population.	Average Annual number of deaths.	Average Annual fatality rate per 100 notified cases.	Average Annual percentage of cases removed to Hospital.
1896—1900	7	0.4	2.0	28.6	0
1901—1905	12	0.6	3.4	28.3	7
1906—1910	8	0.4	2.2	27.5	15
1911—1915	9	0.5	2.0	22.2	46
1916—1920	7	0.4	2.0	28.6	54
1921—1925	16	0.8	0.6	3.8	90
1926—1930	14	0.7	0.8	5.6	97
1931—1935	18	0.8	2.2	12.2	99
1936—1940	15	0.7	0.6	4.0	99
1941—1945	4	0.2	0.0	0.0	100
1941	5	0.2	0	0.0	100
1942	2	0.1	0	0.0	100
1943	3	0.1	0	0.0	100
1944	8	0.5	0	0.0	100
1945	2	0.1	0	0.0	100

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

During 1945, a total of 363 new immunisations were completed, 250 in the 0-5 years-of-age group, and 113 in the 5-15 year groups.

In addition, 79 children were re-immunised, as re-immunisation has now been made available for children who have been immunised in infancy and are now beginning school, and for older children whose immunisation was done more than four years ago.

The total number of children immunised since the scheme began in 1936, has now reached the total of 8,331, and these are shown by ages at the time of their original immunisation in the Table hereunder.

The position is highly satisfactory as regards the older children, but there still appears to be difficulty in getting sufficient of the younger infants immunised in spite of all propaganda. The total in this group shows a slight falling-off from the previous total, and the percentage for the group shows a decrease of 4 per cent.

PERCENTAGES OF CHILD POPULATION IMMUNISED:

(a) 0-5 years of age:

The number of children in the age-groups 1940-1945 inclusive who were immunised on the 31st December, 1945, and of whom the Local Authority has details, was 1,088. The number of children in these groups, according to a figure supplied by the Registrar-General was 2,070, so that the percentage immunised was 52, a decrease of 4 per cent. over the number for the previous year. Actually since immunisation is not done until the child is one year old, the percentage immunised of those available would be 65.

(b) 5-15 years of age:

The number of children in the age-groups 1931-1940 inclusive who were immunised on the 31st December, 1945, and of whom the Local Authority has details, was 3,997. The number of children in these groups, according to a figure supplied by the Registrar-General was 3,970, so that the percentage immunised was 100, an increase of 2 per cent. over the number for the previous year.

It should, however, be pointed out that the table does not allow for deaths, etc., in the numbers shown as immunised. The fact remains that this group is to all intents and purposes wholly immunised.

(c) Over 15 years of age:

The number over 15 years of age on the 31st December, 1945, who have been immunised was 3,246.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

PERSONS INOCULATED EACH YEAR FROM 1936-1945

Age in years on 31st Dec. of the corres- ponding year.	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	
0 ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	Total inoculated under five years on 31st December, 1945. 1088
1 ...	—	—	—	2	4	42	125	189	206	168	
2 ...	—	—	2	12	13	77	130	139	113	58	
3 ...	—	—	6	19	23	73	120	99	65	8	
4 ...	66	38	30	29	42	96	109	86	53	16	
5 ...	222	139	146	126	162	188	134	120	53	28	Total inoculated aged 5—14 years on 31st December, 1945. 3997
6 ...	222	73	68	37	79	116	58	71	48	37	
7 ...	145	60	45	30	52	62	34	29	39	11	
8 ...	19	163	41	12	32	61	34	32	46	7	
9 ...	1	250	36	28	23	44	33	30	31	7	
10 ...	1	272	55	23	15	33	28	22	16	10	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st December, 1945. 3246
11 ...	205	258	58	25	27	28	21	17	17	3	
12 ...	208	118	63	21	10	30	24	15	19	2	
13 ...	211	62	52	20	10	17	17	13	15	2	
14 ...	204	43	58	15	1	15	6	8	3	6	
15 and over	—	8	4	—	—	65	4	4	—	—	
Total each yr.	1504	1484	664	399	494	947	878	874	724	363	8331

ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Four cases were notified, three from Whitehaven Hospital and one from the County Hospital (Meadow View). The latter belonged to another district. All the notified cases recovered.

PNEUMONIA.

Ten cases of Acute Primary, or Influenzal, Pneumonia were notified. The number of deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) was seven more than in the previous year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases were notified, one from the County Hospital.

ERYSIPELAS.

Ten cases were notified.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

One case was notified. This case was admitted to Hospital and made a complete recovery. Another case was admitted as suspected, but was discharged diagnosis not confirmed. A third case—a woman aged 75—was certified as having died at home of this disease. This case was not notified and it was ascertained that no specimen had been submitted for laboratory confirmation of the diagnosis.

MEASLES.

Three hundred and ninety-five cases were notified for the year. There were no deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Two cases were notified.

POLIOMYELITIS.

One case was admitted to Hospital as such and died there.

DYSENTERY.

One case was notified—of the Sonne variety—and was treated at home.

II.—CANCER.

There were 36 deaths from Cancer during the year, an increase of 6 compared with the number in 1944. The Mortality Rate from this disease was 1.67 per 1,000 of population, as compared with the figure for the country as a whole of 1.95.

The primary sites of the lesions were as follows:—

<i>Males</i>				<i>Females</i>			
Mouth	...	...	1	Stomach	...	...	7
Maxillary	...	...	1	Colon	...	...	4
Oesophagus	...	...	1	Rectum	...	...	1
Colon	...	...	2	Breast	...	...	5
Stomach	...	...	6	Uterus	...	...	3
Rectum	...	...	1	Sacrum	...	...	1
Prostate	...	...	1	Leg	...	...	1
Neck	...	...	1				
—				—			
14				22			
—				—			

The average age at death of all cases was 65 years—of males 66, and of females 64.

The Death Rate from Cancer in the Borough as compared with the rate for England and Wales by five-year periods is shown in the following Table:—

Period	Borough of Whitehaven		England and Wales
	Average no. of deaths	Average rate per 1,000 of population	Average rate per 1,000 of population
1901—05	17	0.90	0.87
1906—10	15	0.77	0.94
1911—15	17	0.87	1.05
1916—20	24	1.30	1.18
1921—25	25	1.11	1.27
1926—30	25	1.19	1.41
1931—35	31	1.39	1.53
1936—40	39	1.74	1.66
1941—45	34	1.41	1.87
1941	33	1.40	1.78
1942	42	1.83	1.83
1943	31	1.38	1.90
1944	30	1.39	1.90
1945	36	1.67	1.95

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS, ETC.

No action by the Local Authority was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease of or injury to the eyes, nor was any action required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

III. TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the new cases and mortality for the Borough of Whitehaven, during 1945, by age-groups and sex:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1— 5	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1
5—10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
10—15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	2	6	0	2	0	2	0	1
20—25	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	0
25—35	6	6	1	0	1	8	0	0
35—45	3	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
45—55	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	2
55—65	3	2	0	0	5	2	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	17	4	9	13	14	0	5

Total new cases 46

Total Deaths 32

New Cases.—New cases include 6 Pulmonary cases—5 male and 1 female—notified from H.M. Forces, and also 5 deaths, or 16 per cent. of the total deaths, which had not been previously notified. Altogether, the new cases show an increase of 16 as compared with the figure for the previous year—an increase of over 50 per cent.

Deaths.—Deaths show a still larger increase—32 as against 15—whilst respiratory deaths taken alone, show an even greater increase, being exactly three times the figure for the previous year.

DEATH RATE.

Death Rate per 1,000 of population:—

			<i>Whitehaven.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Respiratory	...	...	1.25	0.52
Non-Respiratory	...	...	0.23	0.10
All forms	...	...	1.48	0.62

Apart from annual fluctuations which one always gets with small numbers, one is forced to the conclusion that the strain of prolonged war conditions and the restrictions entailed in diet, and overcrowding and poor living conditions must now be showing their deleterious effect.

The following Table shows the Death Rate per 1,000 of population from Tubercular Diseases in Whitehaven, as compared with England and Wales as a whole by five-year groups from 1911:—

Year Groups	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			Tuberculosis (all forms).		
	Whitehaven.		England and Wales. Death Rate per 1,000	Whitehaven.		England and Wales. Death Rate per 1,000
	Average Number of Deaths.	Average Rate per 1,000.		Average Number of Deaths.	Average Rate per 1,000.	
1911—15	19.8	1.03	1.05	34.6	1.81	1.41
1916—20	22.2	1.22	1.11	33.6	1.85	1.48
1921—25	22.2	1.10	0.86	29.8	1.47	1.08
1926—30	20.0	0.95	0.76	25.2	1.20	0.94
1931—35	20.4	0.94	0.61	26.8	1.23	0.81
1936—40	20.6	0.91	0.56	24.8	1.10	0.67
1941—45	17.0	0.69	0.55	23.6	0.96	0.66
1941	20	0.84	0.60	32	1.35	0.73
1942	15	0.65	0.54	22	0.96	0.66
1943	14	0.62	0.56	17	0.75	0.67
1944	9	0.42	0.52	15	0.70	0.62
1945	27	1.25	0.52	32	1.48	0.62

The number of cases belonging to the district who received Sanatorium treatment during the year are shown in the following Table:—

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

		In Institutions 1st Jan. 1945.	Admitted	Dis- charged.	Died.	In Institutions 1st Jan. 1946
PULMONARY CASES:						
Men	... ..	3	7	7	1	2
Women	... ..	4	12	6	5	5
Boys	... ..	2	—	2	—	—
Girls	... ..	—	—	—	—	—
NON-PULMONARY CASES:						
Men	... ..	—	1	1	—	—
Women	... ..	1	—	1	—	—
Boys	... ..	—	1	—	—	1
Girls	... ..	1	—	—	—	1
OBSERVATION CASES:						
Males	....	2	1	2	1	—
Females	... ..	5	3	5	—	3
Total ...		18	25	24	7	12

The above Table shows the number of Tuberculosis cases and Observation Tuberculosis cases from the Borough of Whitehaven that received Sanatorium treatment under the County Council Scheme during 1945. Altogether 43 cases from Whitehaven were treated in Sanatoria during the year, a decrease of 18 as compared with 1944.

The number of notified cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1945 was:—

Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	98
—Females	...	...	...	82
Non-Pulmonary—Males	...	...	...	28
—Females	...	...	...	21
Total ...				229

APPENDIX.
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
REPORT

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
81, LOWTHER STREET,
WHITEHAVEN.

August, 1946.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
WHITEHAVEN.

Sir,

I beg to submit my twenty-third Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Forty-three preliminary notices have been served during the year, and it has not been necessary to serve any statutory notices. Only work of an urgent nature has been asked for, and this has always been done without delay.

INSPECTIONS.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	454
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	43
„ „ Factories	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	101
„ „ Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	149
„ „ Shops	...	...	...	...	41
„ „ Schools	...	...	...	...	18
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	33
„ „ Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ Rat Infested Premises	...	...	...	...	27
„ „ Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Caravans attending Fairs	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ New Drainage Work	...	...	...	...	22
„ „ Vessels in Harbour	...	...	...	...	48
Cases of Infectious Disease investigated	...	...	...	...	41
Visits after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	36
Milk Samples obtained	...	...	...	...	128
Water Samples obtained	...	...	...	...	12
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	7
Housing Inspection under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	149
Housing Inspection under Housing Act	...	...	...	...	388
Interviews with Owners or Occupiers	...	...	...	...	359
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	...	201
Total					2,344

IMPROVEMENTS.

Obstructed Drains Cleansed	...	...	...	...	24
New Gullies Fixed	...	...	...	...	9
Drains Repaired or Relaid	...	...	...	...	6
New Pedestal W.C.'s Provided	...	...	...	...	16
New Flushing Cisterns Fixed	...	...	...	...	10
Flushing Cisterns Repaired	...	...	...	...	4
New Sinks Fixed	...	...	...	...	1
House Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Plastering Repaired	...	...	...	...	2
New Spouting Fixed	...	...	...	...	2
New Windows Provided	...	...	...	...	4
Dust Bins Provided	...	...	...	...	42
Cowsheds Limewashed	...	...	...	...	50
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	2
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	12
Houses Disinfested	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	11
Total					209

FACTORIES.

Fifty-seven visits have been paid to factories, and the following contraventions were observed:—

Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	1
Limewashing Overdue	...	...	...	...	2
Total					3

In all cases, the work was carried out after verbal intimation was given.

SHOPS.

Forty visits were paid to shops, and it was not found necessary to make any complaint.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken during the year.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was 15, viz.:—

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	11
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	4

Two of the cases in Council houses were bad, and the skirting boards, picture rails, etc., had to be removed and the houses fumigated with Cimex. In other cases, the houses were sprayed with Zaldecide.

HOUSING.

No systematic work has been done during the year, and inspections have been confined to premises in respect of which complaint has been received.

These invariably refer to properties scheduled as Clearance Areas, and defects or nuisances of an urgent nature have been remedied, but no work involving extensive repair or alteration has been attempted.

OVERCROWDING.

No accurate figure can be given regarding overcrowding. Owing to the difficult conditions existing at present, it is not possible to insist on the fixed standard being maintained, but wherever it is possible to do so, bad cases are dealt with by arranging an exchange in the case of Council houses, and by arrangement with the owners where privately owned property is involved.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 25 producers resident in the Borough, viz.:—
1 tuberculin tested, 15 accredited, and 9 ungraded. In addition 11 outside producers, viz.:—3 tuberculin tested, 3 accredited, 4 ungraded, and 1 pasteurised, supply milk either wholesale or retail in Whitehaven.

There are 29 retailers registered for the sale of milk, viz.:

- 13 Producer-Retailers resident in the Borough.
- 4 Producer-Retailers resident outside the Borough.
- 12 Retailers resident inside or outside the Borough.

SAMPLES.

During the year 128 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows:—

<i>Grade</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
T.T.	25	22 = 88%	3 = 12.0%
Accredited	71	51 = 71.8%	20 = 28.2%
Ungraded	32	20 = 62.5%	12 = 37.5%

The standard taken as satisfactory for Ungraded milk is that of Accredited milk.

Sixty-four samples were examined for T.B. Two were found positive and the matter was referred to the County Authority. The affected cows were discovered by the Regional Veterinary Officer, and were destroyed.

One hundred and one visits have been paid to the cow-sheds and dairies, and generally they have been found satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

The central slaughterhouse, where slaughtering is still carried on for the districts of Whitehaven, Workington, and Ennerdale Rural, has been conducted satisfactorily.

As in previous years, 100 per cent. inspection has been maintained, and one Inspector is employed practically full-time at the slaughterhouse.

The relations between the members of the department with the slaughterhouse manager, the Wholesale Meat Agent, and the Retail Buying Committee have continued to be satisfactory.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and the condemnations during the year.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,264	1,180	8,041	34,114	117
Number inspected ...	2,264	1,180	8,041	34,114	117
<i>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	28	29	50	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	42		4	85	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	2.24		0.41	0.40	6.84
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	10	61	5	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	482		3	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	16.06		0.10	—	5.13

Total Weight of Meat Condemned, 44tons, 16cwts., 89lbs.

OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD SURRENDERED.

Miscellaneous Tinned Meats	...	...	...	1,836lbs.
Miscellaneous Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	...			437lbs.
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	423lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	560lbs.
Malt Flour, Cereals, Rye, Oats	...	...	...	2,558lbs.
Bacon, Ham, Pork	...	...	...	864lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	45lbs.
Fat	...	...	...	13lbs.
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	70lbs.
				6,806lbs.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is still only one offensive trade on the Register, viz.,
A Rag and Bone Dealer.

Ten visits have been paid to the premises and generally they have been conducted satisfactorily.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

The one common lodging house in the Borough ceased to be used at the end of the year. The three houses let in lodgings are still on the Register.

Thirty-three visits have been made during the year, and the premises were found to be conducted satisfactorily.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. LORD,

Sanitary Inspector.

